GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2583
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2007
CAPACITY OF COACHES/COMPARTMENTS
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have proposed to increase the capacity of coaches/compartments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the experts have cautioned against compromising passenger comfort and safety while undertaking the change in designs;

(d) if so, the views expressed by the experts in this regard;

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Railways to ensure passenger comfort and safety while increasing capacity of compartments/coaches;

(f) whether the Railways has drawn a roadmap for aiming at 10 billion passenger mark in the n ext 8 years;

(g) if so, the detailed strategy chalked out by the Railways in this regard; and

(h) the estimated expenditure in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Enhanced capacity coach layouts have been developed for Sleeper class coaches, AC 3-tier coaches, First class AC coaches, and other composite coaches such as I AC cum AC 3-tier and AC 2-tier cum AC 3-tier. The objective of enhanced berthing capacity has been achieved mainly by introduction of additional middle berth on the longitudinal side in AC 3-tier and Sleeper class coaches and also by means of minor variation in the bay width on the transverse side.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The design of the longitudinal middle berths and its mounting arrangement has been duly assessed and tested before finalization of the same. Due attention has been paid to ensure safety, comfort and ergonomics for the passengers.

(f) to (h) No assessment for 8 years has been made. However in the Working Group (WG) document on Railway program for XI plan, a target of 8.4 billion passengers has been projected . The XI th plan is not yet finalized.